

Remarks/Arguments

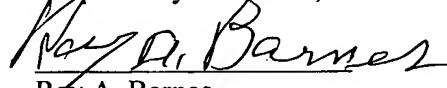
The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 2,260,060. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested since the reference does not disclose applicant's invention as presently claimed.

The '060 reference discloses a buckle for a garter, not a shoulder strap neck reliever as alleged by the Examiner (see page 1, column 1, lines 9-12, 23-26), and is used to provide for attachment to a garment without sewing (see page 1, column 1, lines 47-55). The '060 device is not capable of performing the intended functions of connecting to first and second straps of a seatbelt as required by the present claims. In addition, the buckle of the '060 reference could not relieve the tension on a seatbelt-shoulder belt combination as is required by applicant's claims (see page 1, column 2, lines 28-34 where the attaching and adjustment of the buckle make it unusable as a seatbelt neck reliever).

The '060 reference does not disclose or suggest a clip spaced apart from and connected to the base substantially parallel to the base and defining a strap holding area therebetween, which structure is required by the present claims. The '060 reference is also clearly non-analogous art.

In view of the above remarks reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of applicant's claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Ray A. Barnes